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Ward 6 Newsletter

Tucson First

February 16, 2016

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SB 1397 – Live Dog Racing

Last week up in Phoenix, for a brief couple of days a healthy coalition was formed between Grey2K, an advocacy group in support of shutting down live dog racing, and representatives of the horse racing community. They formed a partnership that led to State Senator Gail Griffin dropping SB1397. The important piece of the legislation simply said "there shall be no live dog racing in this state." Here's the relevant clause. What's crossed out is existing language that the bill would eliminate.

C. Live racing and wagering on simulcast races shall be permissible in either daytime or nighttime, but, unless otherwise agreed by written contract that is submitted
to the department between all the permittees in the same county, there shall be no
live daytime dog racing IN THIS STATE on the same day that there is live daytime
horse or harness racing in any county in which commercial horse or harness racing
has been conducted prior to February 1, 1971, and no live nighttime horse or harness racing on the same day that there is live nighttime dog racing in the same
county.

If passed, Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP) would be out of the live racing business after 12/31/16.

In July 2014, the Arizona Racing Commission granted TGP a three year





Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department **911** or nonemergency 791-4444

Water Issues 791-3242/800-598-9449 Emergency: **791-4133**

Street Maintenance 791-3154

Graffiti Removal 792-2489

Abandoned **Shopping Carts** 791-3171

Neighborhood Resources 837-5013

SunTran/SunLink 792-9222 TDD: 628-1565

Environmental Services 791-3171

> Park Wise 791-5071

Planning and Development Services 791-5550

Pima Animal Care Center 724-5900

Pima County Vector Control

Cockroach: 443-6501 Mosquito: 243-7999

Continued: A Message From Steve

permit to continue live dog racing. It's up for renewal this year. If the state passed the Griffin bill, the existing permit would continue in effect until the end of the year. At that point, decisions would have to be made relative to the fate of the remaining dogs at the track. In the best of worlds, that would mean adopting them out. But this isn't the best of worlds – the horse racing component of the coalition has pulled back from the agreement, and Senator Griffin has decided she isn't going to run the bill after all.

There's a curious and inexplicable hesitation by the horse racing community to support the end of dog racing. If the dogs weren't running, places like TGP could be turned into large off-track betting facilities – turn the infield into soccer fields and the parking area into a food truck rally site so South Tucson could get both amenities and tax receipts. Without the dogs running, all of the off-track betting handle would be placed on the ponies. Everybody wins. But the deal's on hold until cooler heads prevail.

If and when they do, the local adoption groups will have to rally together and prepare to receive the dogs ending their careers at TGP at year's end. The sad reality is that there are groups who advertise to buy up greys for covote hunting bait, just as there are international dog tracks that have the financial wherewithal to ship the dogs overseas. People have also advertised locally to get dogs for 'animal research.' These potential family members aren't protected from any of those alternatives. And, of course, there's the Tijuana track that's still operating with even less oversight than TGP.

I'll keep an eye on this bill, hoping it comes back for consideration. If it does, I'm hoping you see a very public and concerted effort by our adoption groups to work together to adopt out the greys that are still active at the track on December 31st.

Here's what's happening at the other end of the country.

These nearly-empty stands are at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track. Other than the fact that these are relatively nice in appearance, you'd see the same thing at TGP any night you went out to check. The tracks are losing money on live racing all over the country. They're forced to continue because Photo from CBS



states have laws in place that force them to run the dogs in order to keep their off-track betting 'casinos' open. Gaming is where the money is.

Florida is finally considering a bill that would decouple the two activities. That is, you would no longer have to run live racing in order to host a poker room of video screens showing live racing going on in other areas. That would include horse racing – so the pony people have nothing to fear about a decoupling bill.

Only 19 dog tracks remain in the U.S. Twelve of them are in Florida, so decoupling would

have an immediate impact on the industry in that state. As I've written before, TGP is the only live racing track still operating west of the Mississippi. If Arizona were to decouple gaming from live racing and pass a bill to tax the betting handle, state revenues would jump immediately and TGP's owners would no longer have a reason to keep the dogs running.

If a dozen people attend an entertainment event in a venue that seats hundreds – if not thousands – and that event continues to operate, there's more going on than a group of investors making a rational business decision to keep it afloat. The vote on the Florida gambling bill will take place later this month.

Back home in Arizona – there are also three bills being floated this term that would end the Hardship Tax Credit the state gives to Tucson Greyhound Park, effectively using State General Fund money to cover the track's losses.

The state forces TGP to run live races because it won't decouple racing from gaming, and then subsidizes its losses with your tax money. At the same time, the state won't tax gambling at the tracks. You figure it out. The answer isn't pretty.

Pets and their Heroes



While I'm on the topic of animals, this program really deserves some publicity. If you're a veteran or know of a vet who's having a tough time adjusting to reentry, the Humane Society has a great program that might be just the ticket.

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona (HSSA) has started a new program that allows veterans to work with pups who are adjusting to their new lives in the shelter. The dogs need to be socialized, and the veterans get to

see the positive results that come from spending time at HSSA, exercising and creating bonds with the pups. The benefits work in both directions.

An estimated 22 veterans per day commit suicide. Nearly half of returning soldiers bring home combat-related issues. Those may include physical injuries or PTSD symptoms such as depression and lonliness. By pairing up with the pups out at HSSA, both the veterans and the dogs benefit in some very real and healing ways.

The program isn't a huge time commitment for the men and women who sign up. Last fall, they began by meeting twice a week for about an hour and a half. The positive changes they saw were such that the program is continuing. In fact, three out of every four dogs involved in the program adjusted well enough to find forever homes as a result.

If you'd like to sign up or get a friend or relative signed up for this very cool program, contact Gina Hansen out at HSSA. Her phone number is 321-3704 (x153), or you can email her at ghansen@hssaz.org.

SB 1268

This is another Gail Griffin bill, but this one's related to water. Its importance cannot be



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John McCain (R) 520-670-6334

Senator Jeff Flake (R) 520-575-8633

Congresswoman Martha McSally (R) (2nd District) (202) 225-2542 Tucson Office: 520-881-3588

Congressman Raul Grijalva (D) (3th District) 520-622-6788

Governor Doug Ducey (R) 602-542-4331 Tucson office: 520-628-6580

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild 520-791-4201

ZoomTucson Map http:// maps.tucsonaz.gov /zoomTucson/ overstated. First, here's the part of the bill that represents a change to existing law:

Page 5, between lines 36 and 37, insert:

"Q. A MUNICIPALITY THAT WAS NOTIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER RESOURCES BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS AMENDMENT TO THIS SECTION THAT THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY IS LOCATED ADOPTED AN ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY PROVISION AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 11-823, SUBSECTION A SHALL COMPLY WITH SUBJECTION J OF THIS SECTION UNLESS THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADOPTS AN ORDINANCE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS AMENDMENT TO THIS SECTION THAT PROVIDES THAT THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION J OF THIS SECTION. A MUNICIPALITY THAT ADOPTS AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION MAY AT ANY TIME THEREAFTER ADOPT AN ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION O OF THIS SECTION."

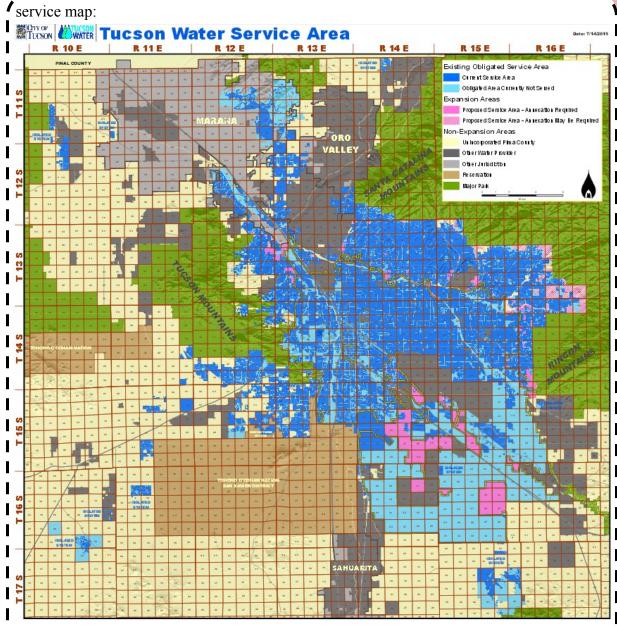
So what does that mess mean? It's really pretty straightforward.

In 2007, the state passed a bill that allowed counties outside of the five Active Management Areas to require new subdivision developments to get a state certificate proving the proposed project had an adequate 100-year water supply before being approved for construction. So far, Cochise and Yuma are the only counties to have passed that requirement. SB1268 would allow cities and towns to pass local ordinances opting out of their counties' 100-year water supply requirement. As a result, rural Arizona could see more subdivisions going in without demonstrable long-term water resources to support them.

Rolling back groundwater requirements seems to be a theme this term up in Phoenix (more on that below). Already, Sierra Vista, Benson, and Douglas have indicated that they want out of the 100-year water supply mandates of their respective counties.

This bill has some interesting competing claims. I always join the M&C in advocating for local control. The state proposes dozens of bills every term that eliminate local authority under the claim of the issues at hand are of statewide concern. Here's a case in which the state is giving cities and towns the ability to opt out of county rules on an issue that very clearly is of statewide importance: our future groundwater capacity.

Here in Tucson, we adopted a very forward-looking local water policy back in 2010 that established a water service boundary for Tucson Water. It was one of the outcomes from the joint Tucson-Pima County water-wastewater infrastructure policy review we finished earlier that year. (I might add, agreeing to that policy was one of the two times since I started this back in 2009 that we've met with the Board of Supervisors in open joint session to work on an important policy area. The second was last fall when Supervisor Bronson and County Administrator Huckelberry joined us to talk about the importance of the Sonoran Corridor.) In our policy, we set a boundary for service and later established a review board to consider requests for extensions beyond those boundaries. The boundaries and exceptions are based on geographic, economic, and environmental factors. Here's our



You may have read about a recent development planned for Sierra Vista that would likely dry up the San Pedro River. It wound up facing opposition from two Superior Court lawsuits, one from environmental groups based on the county's assured water supply requirement, and the other from the Federal government based on the Bureau of Land Management's claim to surface flows in the river. The result is SB 1268, which would eliminate the first objection and allow Sierra Vista to ignore the question of long-term water adequacy as it moves ahead with the development.

This is an important one to follow. As I noted, it's an odd mix of local control versus identifying an issue of statewide concern and giving the state the ability to set policy that preempts local decision-making. In this case, I'd concede the state's preeminence in the issue as long as that deference results in protecting our long-term groundwater supply – but that leads to yet another example of an unhealthy direction we're seeing in Phoenix on the issue of water and setting policy for our water future.

Water Augmentation Council

Last week, I shared the names of the representatives who were appointed to the Governor's 29-member Water Augmentation Council. The group largely reflects industrial and large municipal interests. In case you missed it, here's the list once again:

- Thomas Buschatzke, Arizona Department of Water Resources (Chairman)
- Bas Aja Arizona, Cattlemen's Association
- Lisa Atkins, Arizona State Land Department
- David Brown, Brown & Brown Law Offices
- Misael Cabrera, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Chris Camacho, Greater Phoenix Economic Council
- Ted Cooke, Central Arizona Project
- Ron Doba, Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association
- Sandy Fabritz-Whitney, Freeport-McMoRan
- Kathy Ferris, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association
- Grady Gammage, Jr., Gammage and Burnham
- Maureen George, Mohave County Water Authority
- Patrick Graham, The Nature Conservancy
- Glenn Hamer, Arizona Chamber of Commerce
- Spencer Kamps, Home Builders Association of Central Arizona
- Rod Keeling, Arizona Wine Growers Association
- Rick Lavis, Arizona Cotton Growers
- Cheryl Lombard, Valley Partnership
- Robert Lotts, Arizona Public Service
- Hunter Moore, Office of Governor Doug Ducey
- Wade Noble, Noble Law Offices
- Virginia O'Connell, Arizona Water Banking Authority
- Sarah Porter, Kyl Center for Water Sustainability
- Dave Roberts, Salt River Project
- Mark Smith, Yuma Irrigation District
- Craig Sullivan, County Boards of Supervisors
- Warren Tenney, Southern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association
- Phil Townsend, Sunlund Chemicals Co
- Chris Udall, Agribusiness Council

Madeline Kiser from the Community Water Coalition and I penned a guest piece and submitted it to the Arizona Republic. In recognizing the importance of this issue, the Star's editorial staff allowed an exception to their policy of not running guest pieces that have previously run in other markets, and yesterday shared an edited version of our piece on its editorial page. Here's the copy:

Recognizing the importance of water to the State's future, Governor Ducey has formed the Water Augmentation Council. Its 29 members will propose policies that will define our water future. The formation of the Council is a forward thinking move. However, the members of the Council reflect large industrial and municipal interests. We must not leave it to those few sectors to define our water policy. The Governor must expand the Council so it

more fully represents the diverse set of voices deserving of a seat at this critical table.

The harsh reality is that we are borrowing the environment from our children. We will return it to them in some form. The deliberations of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council will help to determine what form that becomes. The World Economic Forum named water scarcity the most important issue we'll face in the next decade. California is facing severe drought conditions. Multiple cities like Flint, Michigan, are either running out of water or are facing issues of contamination. The directions that will be proposed by the Council are existential in their importance

The Colorado State Water Plan was developed with input from a wide variety of interests.

The Arizona Water Augmentation Council was appointed with little public input or scrutiny.

Diverse voices such as those included in the formation of the Colorado Plan are summarily lacking in representation from the Governor's Council.

Arizona can rightfully claim a leadership role in putting into place forward thinking water policies. The 1980 Groundwater Management Act created the legal and institutional framework for restricting unlimited groundwater use in key areas of the State and providing for underground storage capabilities. The GMA was instrumental in establishing a public sense that we are indeed water stewards with obligations to future generations. Building on such an important agenda cannot be left to a narrow set of interests to address.

A new generation of investors and entrepreneurs are asking fundamental questions about the impacts of climate change. This new generation insists that we uphold values such as social equity and transparency. Our shared goal should be to ensure that we are building a fair, sustainable 21st century economy. The water policy we choose will serve as its foundation. Without expanding the perspectives providing input, it's unrealistic to presume broad buy-into the product that will result from the Council's work.

We can see the impacts of water policies that are built on the unrealistic assumption of unlimited supplies, or policies that allow unlimited pumping based on financial ability. Certainly we can proactively put in place policies that avoid the types of political and bureaucratic decisions that led to what Flint is now experiencing. Our water policy must be based on the simple underlying principle that supplies are not endless.

The Governor's advisory Council will propose a plan of action. In arriving at that plan, there must be an open debate that includes the importance of economic development throughout our State as well as a discussion of how much we invest in conservation of local supplies before we look to securing new sources through technology, like desalination, which will likely come at a prohibitive cost.

Creating a sound water future must begin and end based on the very simple reality that nature has its limits. The first meeting of the Water Augmentation Council is February 19th.

The Governor must act immediately to expand the set of voices who will take part in framing our water future.

Tied to that is the motion I brought to M&C last week to request a letter be drafted and sent to the Governor requesting that representation on the Water Augmentation Council be ex-

panded to include environmentally-focused groups and Southern Arizona voices. That letter has gone out.

That's a lot to digest, but the key message is that there are multiple initiatives going on up in Phoenix that could have significant long-term impacts on our groundwater supply. The contact person for the Water Augmentation Council is Michelle Moreno. If you'd like to connect with her, her email address is mamoreno@azwater.gov. She has confirmed that the Water Augmentation Council will post its agendas online and that each of their meetings will be open to the public and have calls to the audience. Here's the online notice of their first meeting: http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/GWACMeetingInformation.htm

More Local Control - Tucson Medical Center

Over the past three years, the state has reduced eligibility for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) in ways that have resulted in an uninsured population of over 133,000 adults and children in Pima County. Hospitals are required to provide health care to people who show up at their doors, regardless of insurance status. As a result, Tucson Medical Center (TMC) absorbed \$56M in uncompensated care costs in 2014, and it anticipates a figure north of \$62M in 2016. Fortunately, under the terms of a bill passed in 2008, TMC is eligible for certain payments from AHCCCS to offset some of those costs. Last week, we signed on as a partner to help the hospital access some of those funds.

As is the case with all Medicaid agencies, AHCCCS secures Federal funding by demonstrating a state match. The 2008 bill allowed local governments to provide that match because state funding was no longer available. That loss of state funding was magnified; the health care providers lost both the state dollars, plus the Federal match.

TMC qualifies for the program adopted back in 2008 because of the percentage of uninsured patients it serves. Through two Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA), the City of Tucson is paying TMC \$3.7M. We agreed to the first IGA last week, and the balance will come later this fall. At that time, TMC will become eligible for its Federal match, making the total package worth over \$11M. It's a far cry from the \$62M that TMC will be paying out for uncompensated care, but it's a chunk with which we can help.

The naysayers will point to our budget problem as a reason we shouldn't become involved with this. Standing alone, they might have a point. But in this case, TMC has also agreed to pay up to \$4.2M in our obligations to Pima Animal Care Center costs. That may not fulfill our total bill to PACC at the end of the fiscal year, but it'll be the bulk of it. We win, TMC gets its Federal funding, and the hospital's ability to treat uninsured patients continues.

There are limits built into the program that restrict how many of these sorts of arrangements qualifying hospitals can apply for. With our agreement, TMC is able to max-out its eligibility. We're happy to enter into this agreement.

Budget – People, Parks, and Transit

In order to avoid starting next fiscal year with a \$42M budget deficit, we were hoping to

secure \$6.8M in savings from early retirement incentives we offered. So far, we're at about \$4.5M. We're still working on the personnel part, but it looks as if we won't quite make our goal. But every little bit helps; we will begin next year with less than the deficit figure we've projected. Recall that I opened with a short discussion of 'insolvency' a few weeks ago. The point, of course, was that if we did nothing, the trajectory we're on is headed in that direction. As I stated then, and as I continue to assert, we're not "doing nothing." That's the point of these weekly updates on budget pieces.

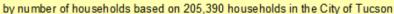


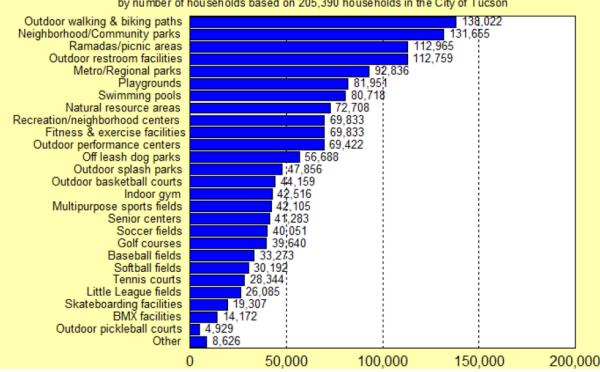
It's a high hill to climb, but we're not standing at the base waiting for the tram to come and pick us up. We're closing on a land sale that came in above our expectations, and the City Manager is still looking at moving general-funded workers into our enterprise departments to both help with the General Fund deficit, and to help fill vacancies in those other departments. Moving parts.

Last week, I also shared that pollsters will soon begin to take your temperature on a possible ballot initiative focused on increasing sales taxes to fund specific General Fund functions, or allowing us to shift the limits on property taxes to increase our ability to fund operations, while still being required to take bond requests to the voters. Look for that poll in the coming weeks.

We might consider earmarking some or all of the sales tax increase for Parks and Recreation. We pay for parks from the General Fund. If we were to earmark a portion of a sales tax increase to that department, it would provide that much relief for other General Fund needs. Last week, we received an update on our Parks Master Plan survey. This graph shows that the vast majority of people who use our parks facilities place a value on outdoor walking and biking paths and on our community parks. That doesn't mean they'd agree to pay a tax increase to fund them, but it at least gives us a snapshot of which parts of our parks offerings many people value the most.

Q8a. Estimated Number of Households in the City of Tucson that Have a Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities





As with any survey, teasing the real meaning from numbers like this isn't a science. The County provides a significant bike and walking path system that makes its way around and through the City. That may be a large part of what people pointed to in this survey when identifying what they value, yet it's not what the sales tax increase would go to fund. We're going to have many more study session exchanges on this before any decisions are finalized about what to take to you in ballot questions.

Another option for earmarking funding is some portion of our transit system. Combining Sun Tran, Sun Van, and the Streetcar, we pay in the neighborhood of \$45M from the General Fund every year. Last week, we finally started the conversation about possibly adopting a new management model for the transit system. The 2045 RTA long range regional transit system forecast shows that we're anticipating spending over \$4B on the regional system over the next 30 years. Identifying a workable model is clearly important to the region.

Regardless of what model we agree on, it won't make any appreciable difference this coming fiscal year. Agreeing to earmark some portion of a sales tax could – but that's for the poll, and ultimately the ballot question.

The transit models presented cover the spectrum from fully publicly managed and funded to fully privatized. Here are a couple of charts that show where the risk lies as you move along that spectrum – and how we could split out certain functions so the hybrid of risks and responsibilities also moves the costs to one party or the other:

Range of Approaches to Private Sector Involvement

Public Risk Private Risk



Public Only

Public Operating Risk

- ➤ Public policy
- ➤ Public employees
- ➤ Public assets



Management

Public Operating Risk

- ➤ Public policy
- ➤ Private management
- Public service delivery



Operations & Maintenance

Shared Operating Risk

- ➤ Public policy
- ➤ Public management
- Private service delivery



Public-Private Operating Partnership

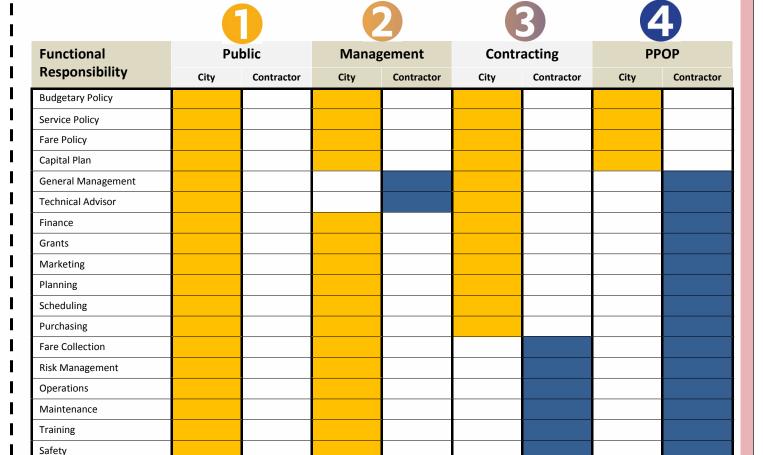
Private Operating Risk

- ➤ Public policy
- Private management
- Private service delivery

Right now we have a combination of some parts of each of those models. The policy is publicly set, the workers are private sector, management of the system is contracted to the private sector, and we continue with the financial risk. There are further ways to split areas of responsibility and risk. See that breakdown on the next page.

Our RTA partners are engaged in this discussion. We'll continue with this as a longer-term issue – longer, that is, than the immediate need to fit our transit responsibilities into our current budget debates. I think we're all glad to finally have the management model as part of the broader conversation.

'Allocation of Responsibility



On another transit-related note, we finalized an agreement with Oregon Ironworks on the liquidated damage claim we had against it for delays in getting the streetcar system up and running. Liquidated damages (LDs) are typical in any large product delivery contract. They hold the vendor responsible for performing. In our case, we had the right to collect about \$1.7M in LDs. The agreement we signed will allow us to collect that in parts and labor above what was called out in the original contract. It's a good and fair settlement that will help us avoid costs that would have otherwise come from the General Fund over time.

Ward 6 Budget Forum

Mark your calendar – Wednesday, February 24th at 6:00pm we've invited the City Manager and our CFO to come to the Ward office (3202 E 1st Street) and make a public budget presentation. By then, we should have some updated sales tax revenue figures, along with an update on how the personnel savings are doing. It's still early in the process, but everyday we get closer to having to put this budget into final form. What we hear on the 24th will give a good snapshot of where we are in that process.

✓ Tucson Originals – Veg in a Box

I'm including this with the budget discussion because keeping our money in the local economy is a way of priming our General Fund pump, as well as helping local businesses thrive. This week, I'm going to start



what will become a weekly piece of the newsletter that will highlight one of our Tucson Originals. You can see the full Tucson Originals website and list of all of its partners by going to <u>tucsonoriginals.com/</u>.

The rationale for supporting local businesses is pretty well-documented. You can click here to download a PDF of a study by Anil Rupasingha, an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Its 38 pages conclude that local entrepreneurship has a positive impact on per capita income growth, employment growth, and poverty rates.

Importantly for the businesses I'm going to promote with the Tucson Originals piece of the newsletter, the effect of local ownership is greatest when the businesses have fewer than 100 employees. In tough economic times, these smaller businesses lay off fewer employees than larger corporate-led businesses do, and they tend to bounce back more quickly when downturns end. In a <u>recent study</u> published in the journal *Sociological Spectrum*, the authors found that the presence of locally-owned retail establishments tended to reduce the out-migration of college grads from the area. We often hear that we want to keep our UA grads here – supporting local businesses is one good way.

I'll start this new section by giving some love to Veg in a Box. They started as a food truck, but are now located at the corner of Scott and Pennington (75 E. Pennington). They serve vegan food and have ridiculously healthy smoothies. I'll be taking my bride there this coming Thursday evening, so if you're out and about, stop in and say 'hi.'

I think this new section will be a fun addition to the newsletter, and the options from which I'll choose are all available to you now on the Tucson Originals website.



Main Gate District Overlay

We have some fun local businesses in the Main Gate District, but unfortunately the large student towers aren't among them. In fact, the incidents we've had to address at those towers have led to evictions, fines, and now the study of possible changes to our Main Gate Overlay ordinance language that I'll be asking us to consider during an upcoming M&C meeting.

In Section C of the Main Gate Overlay ordinance, balconies are addressed as follows:

<u>C-19.I. Architectural elements such as balconies, outdoor stairs, ornaments and surface</u> detail shall be used to enhance the architectural style of the building.

They were never intended to be launching pads for whisky bottles, but that's what they've become.

The Main Gate District runs from Speedway to 6th Street, and from Euclid to Park. Here's a map:
 map:



We adopted the District in 2011 to coincide with the development of the streetcar and to incentivize transit-oriented development in ways that would pull mini-dorms out from neighborhoods and onto the outskirts of campus. The impact on the businesses in the Main Gate area has been good. The impact on the mosque down below Sol y Luna has not been.

For the March 22nd study session, I've asked that M&C consider sending the Planning Commission a request to look at amending the Main Gate Overlay architectural design standards and eliminate the ability to put balconies that face the exterior of the building above the 3rd floor. All of the Planning Commission hearings are public, so any interested parties will have the chance to share thoughts. Here's a map that shows the allowable heights of buildings under the terms of the Main Gate Overlay design standards:

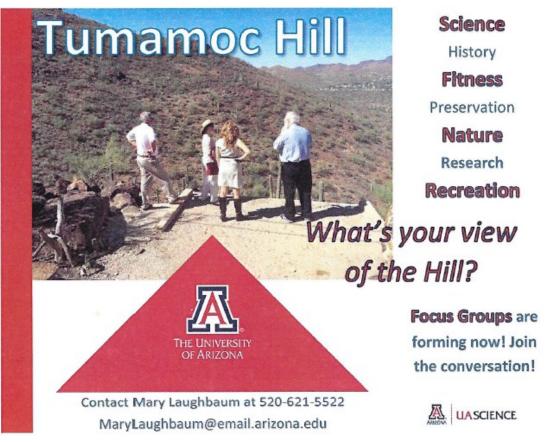


It's fair to say that if the owners of Sol y Luna had agreed to voluntarily shut down the existing balconies at the start of the next school semester, I may have thought that act of good faith was worth giving a looksee. But given their resistance and the fact that the Islamic Center community remains vulnerable to juvenile and dangerous actions, I'm taking this step. At least let's have the discussion to see if anyone comes up with a better solution. I absolutely do not want to see the mosque sell out, relocate, and leave us with another tower with exterior balconies at this location that will only place the general public down below at risk instead.

A Positive UA Item

Tumamoc Hill is a regional gem. The UA is beginning a survey to gather public input that will inform its decisions on how to best preserve and/or develop amenities on and around Tumamoc. The contact person for this study is Mary Laughbaum. She's one of the ladies I work with on a regular basis when we're wrestling with off-campus student housing issues. I'm sure she's looking forward much more to getting input on Tumamoc.

Here's a flyer related to the study. Mary's contact information is included at the bottom. We'll all be looking forward to hearing what you value, and how you'd like to see the UA move forward with what happens around 'the hill.'



A Final Local Tucson Item

In closing this week, I want to give kudos to each of the local arts related people and groups that will be recognized in this year's Governor's Arts Awards. I began this week with some tough words for the Governor. This is an area in which he deserves credit for his involvement.

I'll share the entire list of honorees below, but there are several Tucson people you should pick out of the crowded list:

Simon Kregar and Luis Gustavo Mena are being recognized in the Artist category. Susan Gamble and Dorothy Vanek are receiving individual awards. Linda Cato and Donn Poll are recognized in the Arts in Education category. Both the Arizona Theater Company and International Astronomical Artists' Association are receiving awards in the Community category. (We hosted the IAAA at the Ward 6 office for its exhibit opening last year. You'll see

Michelle Rouch, listed as being from Vail, also honored under Arts in Education. She put that opening together.) The Tucson small business honoree is Art with Conviction, and our local large business in support of the arts is Casino del Sol Resort.

Look over the list. My own opinion is that there are plenty more local artists and arts organizations that deserve recognition. But this is a Phoenix-centric award, so we're glad to have as many as we do on the list.

Artist

Bobb Cooper, Phoenix James G. Davis, Oracle Maria Isabel Delgado, Chandler Angela Ellsworth, Tempe Doug Hyde, Prescott Simon Kregar, Jr., Tucson Doris Lightwine, Kingman Annie Lopez, Phoenix Ken Koshio, Phoenix Dan Mayer, Tempe Hugo Media, Phoenix, Luis Gustavo Mena, Tucson Robert Miley, Phoenix Angelina Ramirez, Phoenix Gregory Sale, Tempe Susan Southard, Tempe Mike Vax, Dewey Curt Walters, Sedona Frank Ybarra, Phoenix

Community [nueBOX], Phoenix Arizona Opera, Phoenix

Arizona Theatre Company, Tucson Artisan Village of Coolidge, Coolidge Benevilla, Surprise City of Yuma, Parks and Recreation North End Art Walk, Yuma Del E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts, Wickenburg International Astronomical Artists' Association, Tucson Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff Musical Theatre of Anthem, Anthem Oh My Ears, Phoenix Phoenix Center for the Arts, Phoenix Sonoran Arts League, Cave Creek The Scottsdale Philharmonic, Scottsdale Theater Works/Peoria Center for the Performing Arts, Peoria Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, Phoenix WHAM Art Association, Surprise Wilcox Historic Theater Preservation, Inc. Wilcox

Winslow Arts Trust, Winslow

Young Arts Arizona Ltd., Phoenix

Sincerely,
Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6

Individual

John D'Addario, Scottsdale
Susan Gamble, Tucson
Gene K. Garrison, Sedona
Betty Gaudy, Cottonwood
Laurie and Chuck Goldstein, Paradise Valley
Lin Ling Lee, Phoenix
Dr. Ruth Tan Lim, Mesa
Karen Murphy, Prescott
Hope H. Ozer, Paradise Valley
Daniel Schay, Peoria
Choo Tay, Scottsdale
Dorothy Vanek, Tucson

Arts in Education - Organization

Children's Museum of Phoenix
Phoenix Children's Chorus, Phoenix
Release the Fear, Phoenix
STARS, Scottsdale
Theatre for Youth Program at ASU, Tempe

Arts in Education - Individual

Linda Cato, Tucson
Jack Kukuk, Gold Canyon
Candace Luther, Tempe
Joseph Maniglia, Flagstaff
Eileen Morgan, Phoenix,
Donn Poll, Tucson
Michelle Rouch, Vail
David Tinapple, Phoenix

Small Business

Arizona Copper Art Museum, Clarkdale
Art Intersection, Gilbert
Art with Conviction, Tucson
Canyon Records, Phoenix,
Galiano's Café, Douglas
Hubbell Trading Post, Ganado
LDVinci Art Studio, Chandler
ON Media Publications, Phoenix

Large Business

Arizona Public Service, Phoenix Casino Del Sol Resort, Tucson DMB Associates, Inc. Scottsdale Sanderson Lincoln, Phoenix

Events and Entertainment

FC Tucson Desert Diamond Cup

February 17-27, 2016

Kino Sports Complex, 2817 E Ajo Way

In its fifth year, FC Tucson, Visit Tucson, and Pima County are continuing their partnership with Major League Soccer as the Western Hub Preseason. The Desert Diamond Cup has become a highly anticipated event for soccer fans in the Southwest and a popular travel destination for the fan bases of each team. This year's tournament will build on last year's wildly popular festival environment, featuring food and famous frozen Eegee's, as well as a variety of family--friendly games and entertainment. fctucson.com/team/2016-mls-preseason-in-tucson

Tucson Birding Trail Map

The new Tucson Birding Trail Map is now available. The free map shows the 45 best locations in and around Tucson for finding wild birds. The sites include a range of mountain, desert, and wetland locations, each with its own variety of species. Tucson parks are featured prominently among these, and one of the 45 sites is likely to be very near your home. The map will be available at a variety of Tucson Audubon and Tucson Parks and Recreation Department locations or you can find an online version at arcg.is/louG7BP. For more information about birding in Tucson and the Tucson Audubon Society, visit www.tucsonaudubon.org or contact Kendall Kroesen at 520-209-1806.

Ongoing...

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave | www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church St | tucsonconventioncenter.com

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E Congress St | www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

A social walk/run through the Downtown area. Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too! Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

Mission Garden, 929 W Mission Ln | www.tucsonsbirthplace.org

A re-creation of the Spanish Colonial walled garden that was part of Tucson's historic San Agustin Mission. For guided tours call 520-777-9270.

<u>Children's Museum Tucson</u>, 200 S 6th Ave | <u>www.childernsmuseumtucson.org</u> Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way | www.tucsonbotanical.org

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave | www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd | www.uamineralmuseum.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave | www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St | www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St | hotelcongress.com

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd | www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St | www.rialtotheatre.com

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd | www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave | www.arizonatheatre.org

The Rogue Theatre, The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd | www.theroguetheatre.org